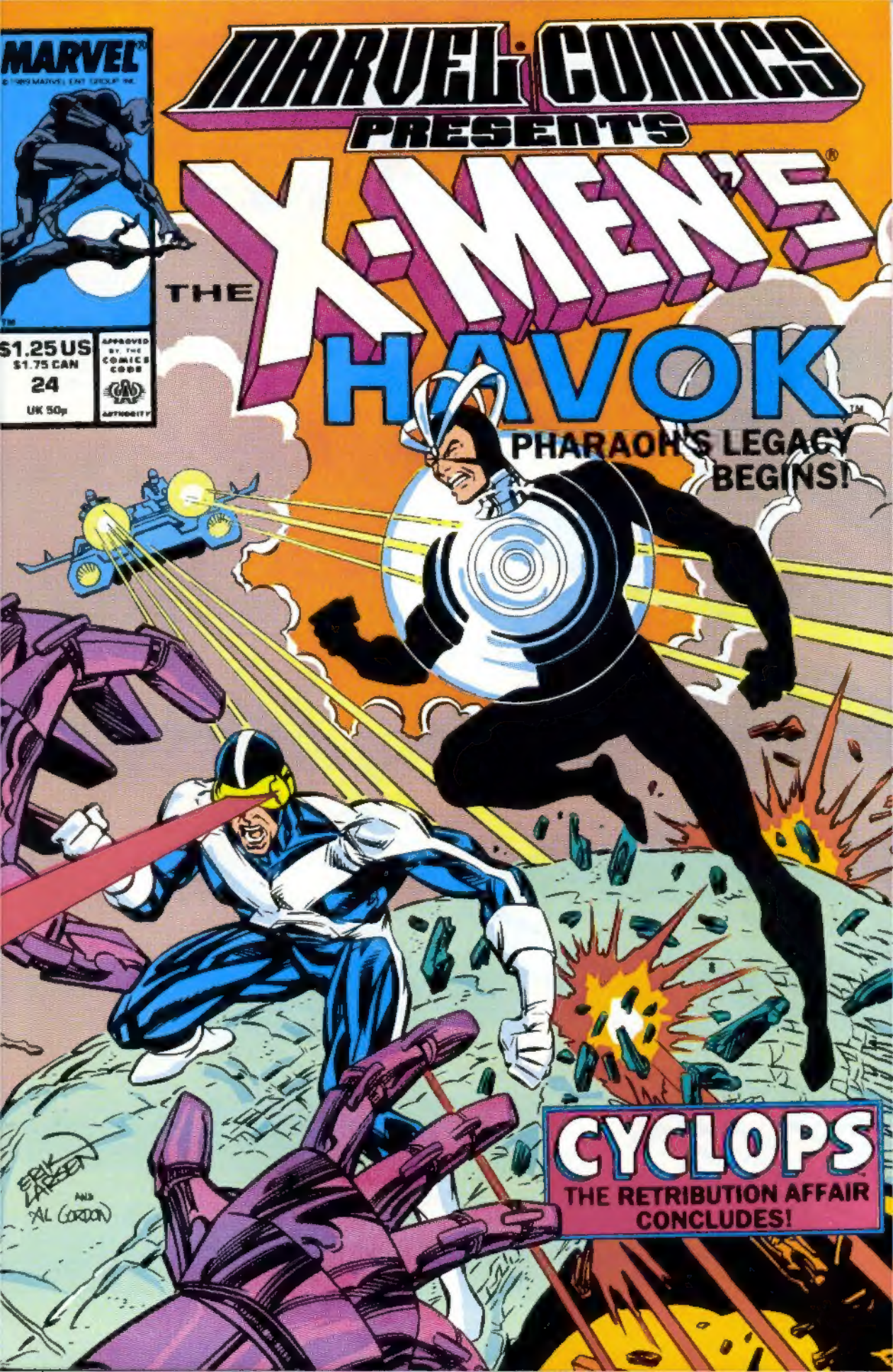

MARVEL
$1.25 US
$1.75 CAN
24
UK 50p
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE
MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS
THE X-MEN'S
HAVOK
PHARAOH'S LEGACY BEGINS!
CYCLOPS
THE RETRIBUTION AFFAIR CONCLUDES!
ERIK LARSEN
AND
AL GORDON

MARVEL® COMICS PRESENTS™

Cover by ERIK LARSEN
and AL GORDON
TERRY KAVANAGH editor
MICHAEL ROCKWITZ
assistant editor
TOM DeFALCO
editor in
chief

Stan Lee Presents:
CYCLOPS "THE RETRIBUTION AFFAIR" 1
WRITER — Bob Harras
PENCILER — Ron Lim
INKER — Jeff Albrecht
LETTERER — Agustin Mas
COLORIST — Andy Yanchus

"RETRIBUTION AND RESURRECTION" — PART 8 OF 8
With the fate of humanity hanging in the balance, the mutant, Cyclops must defeat the Master Mold before the deadly Retribution Virus is released. But time is running out, and Cyclops cannot stop him alone . . .

BLACK PANTHER "PANTHER'S QUEST" 9
WRITER — Don McGregor
PENCILER — Gene Colan
INKER — Tom Palmer
LETTERER — Joe Rosen
COLORIST — Mike Rockwitz

"VOICES HEARD, VOICES IGNORED" — PART 12 OF 25
Zanti Chikane is a goldminer living in a black township in South Africa, who stumbles upon a bleeding and barbed wire torn Black Panther one morning on his way to work. Fortunately, he hasn't run into the mercenary, Elmer "Sex 'N' Violence" Gore, who threw the Panther into the barbed wire. But close contact with the Panther has increased Zanti's risk of danger — the last a fight against South African security forces. Now, Zanti has to make a decision that may cost him his life!

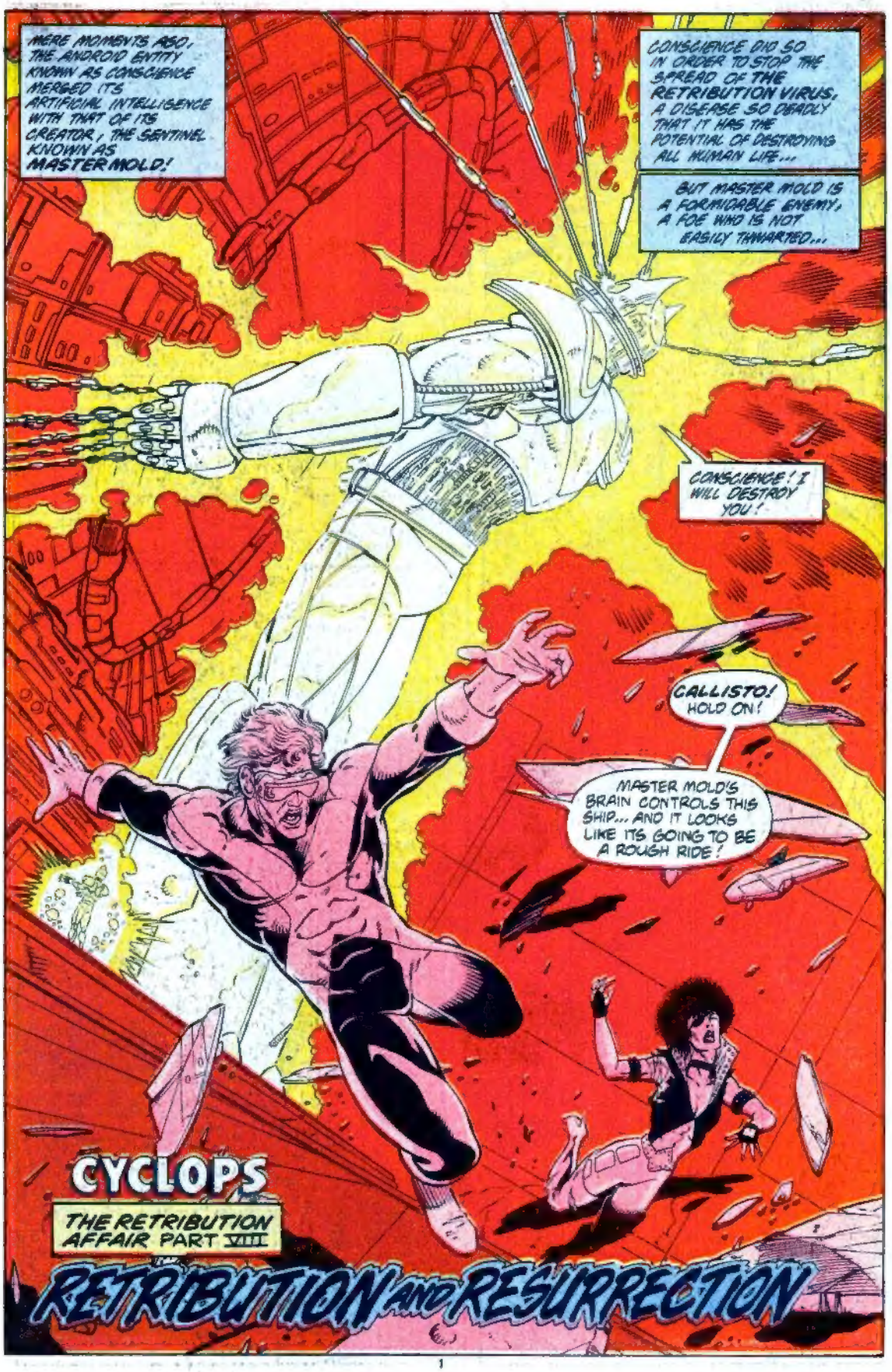
SHAMROCK 17
WRITER — Scott Lobdell
PENCILER — Dennis Jensen
INKER — Dan Adkins
LETTERER — Janice Chiang
COLORIST — Evelyn Stein

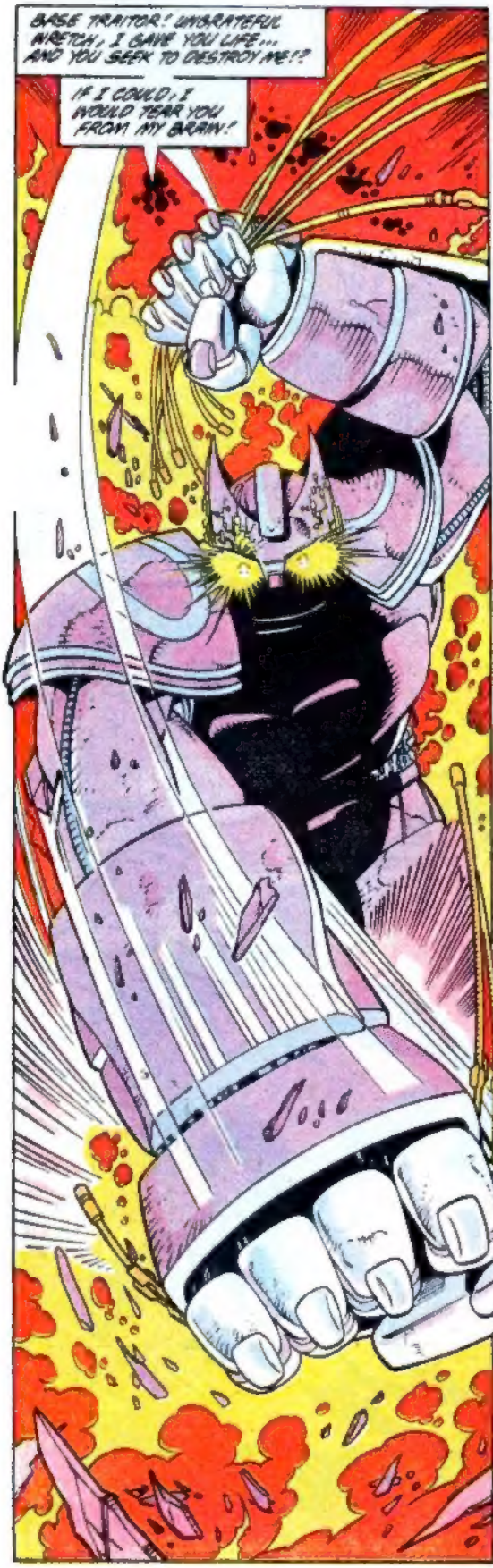
"I HAVEN'T GOT TIME FOR THE PAIN"
Molly Fitzgerald, a Dublin school teacher, is the vessel for a thousand tortured souls — innocent victims of a religious war that has ravaged her homeland for centuries. These poltergeists manifest themselves as instantaneous bursts of random telekinetics whenever she's threatened. Using her "good luck" powers, she is Shamrock — Ireland's most reluctant super heroine.

HAVOK "PHARAOH'S LEGACY" 25
WRITER — Howard Mackie
BREAKDOWNS — Rich Buckler
FINISHES — Joe Rubinstein
LETTERER — Bill Oakley
COLORIST — Andy Yanchus

"A CHANGE OF HEART" — PART 1 OF 8
Alex Summers, Havok of the X-Men, is traveling the Australian Outback in search of peace and solitude. He's hoping to avoid any situation that will make it necessary for him to call forth his mutant ability to harness the cosmic rays into plasma blasts. He's hoping in vain . . .

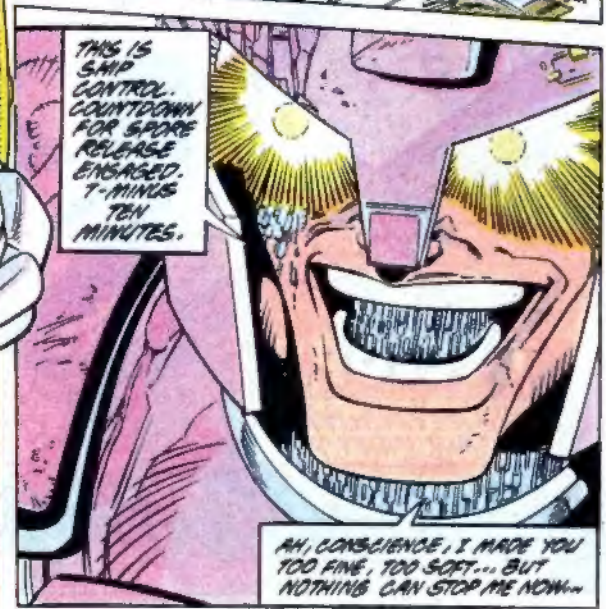
MARVEL® COMICS PRESENTS™ Vol. 1, No. 24, Late July, 1989. Published by MARVEL COMICS. James E. Galton, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. Michael Hobson, Group Vice President, Publishing. Milton Schiffman, Vice President, Production. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Published bi-weekly.
Copyright © 1989 by Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price $1.25 per copy in the U.S. and $1.75 in Canada. Subscription rate $15.00 for 12 issues. Canada and foreign, $21.00. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS (including all prominent characters featured in the issue), and the distinctive likenesses thereof, are trademarks of the MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC.


MERE MOMENTS AGO, THE ANDROID ENTITY KNOWN AS CONSCIENCE MERGED ITS ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE WITH THAT OF ITS CREATOR, THE SENTINEL KNOWN AS MASTER MOLD!
CONSCIENCE DID SO IN ORDER TO STOP THE SPREAD OF THE RETRIBUTION VIRUS, A DISEASE SO DEADLY THAT IT HAS THE POTENTIAL OF DESTROYING ALL HUMAN LIFE...
BUT MASTER MOLD IS A FORMIDABLE ENEMY, A FOE WHO IS NOT EASILY THWARTED...
CONSCIENCE! I WILL DESTROY YOU!
CALLISTO! HOLD ON!
MASTER MOLD'S BRAIN CONTROLS THIS SHIP... AND IT LOOKS LIKE ITS GOING TO BE A ROUGH RIDE!
CYCLOPS
THE RETRIBUTION AFFAIR PART VIII
RETRIBUTION AND RESURRECTION

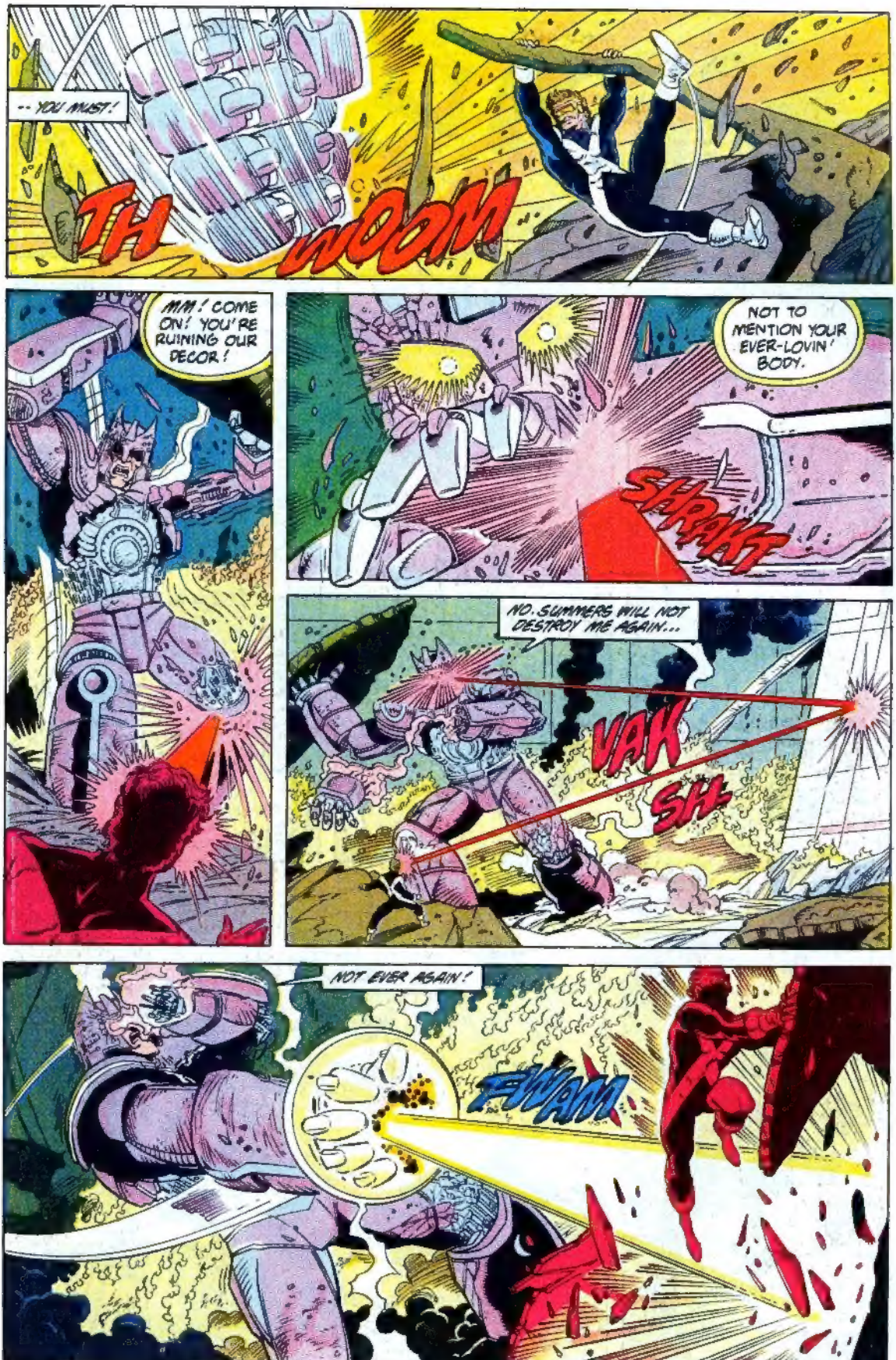

BASE TRAITOR! UNGRATEFUL WRETCH, I GAVE YOU LIFE... AND YOU SEEK TO DESTROY ME!?
IF I COULD, I WOULD TEAR YOU FROM MY BRAIN!

BUT... BOSS! I'M ONLY TRYING TO STOP YOU FROM KILLIN' HUMANS... C'MON, LET'S MAKE THE MOST OF THIS BEAUTIFUL MOMENT AND REALLY GET IN TOUCH WITH OUR FEELINGS.
STOP! YOU FLOOD MY MIND WITH EMOTIONAL IMAGES! MUTANTKIND MUST BE DESTROYED...
...AT ANY COST!

NO, M.M. THE VIRUS IS TOO UNSTABLE... WE JUMPED INTO IT TOO FAST...
MAYBE BECAUSE WE HATED TOO MUCH. MAYBE STEPHEN LANG WAS WRONG... MAYBE EVEN MUTANTS DON'T DESERVE TO DIE THIS WAY!
SHUT UP!

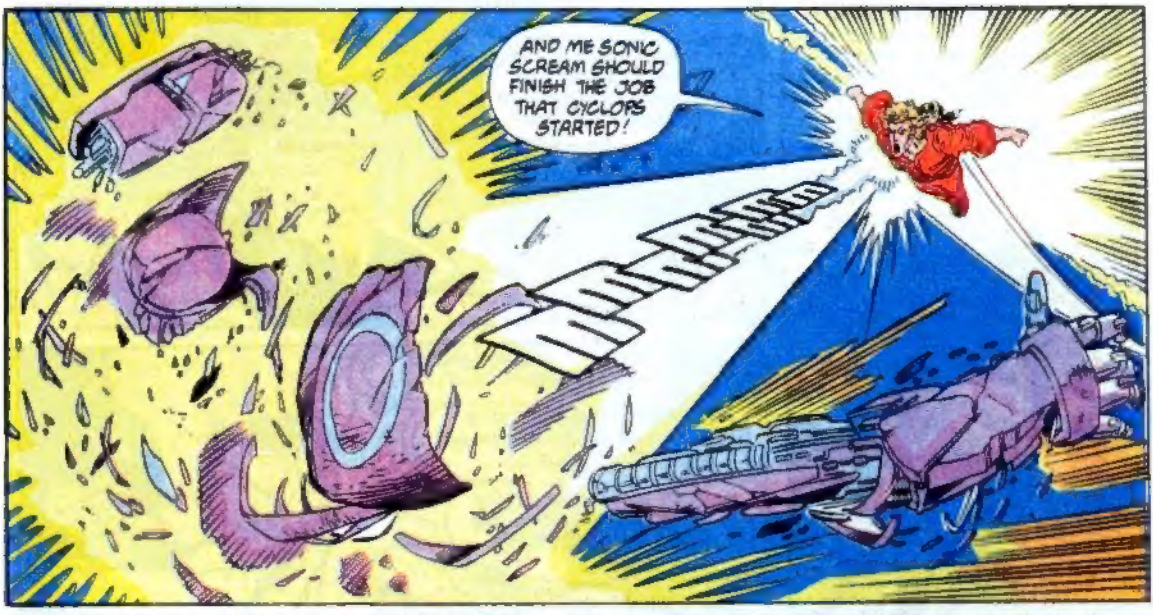

THIS IS SHIP CONTROL. COUNTDOWN FOR SPORE RELEASE ENGAGED. T-MINUS TEN MINUTES.
AH, CONSCIENCE, I MADE YOU TOO FINE, TOO SOFT... BUT NOTHING CAN STOP ME NOW...

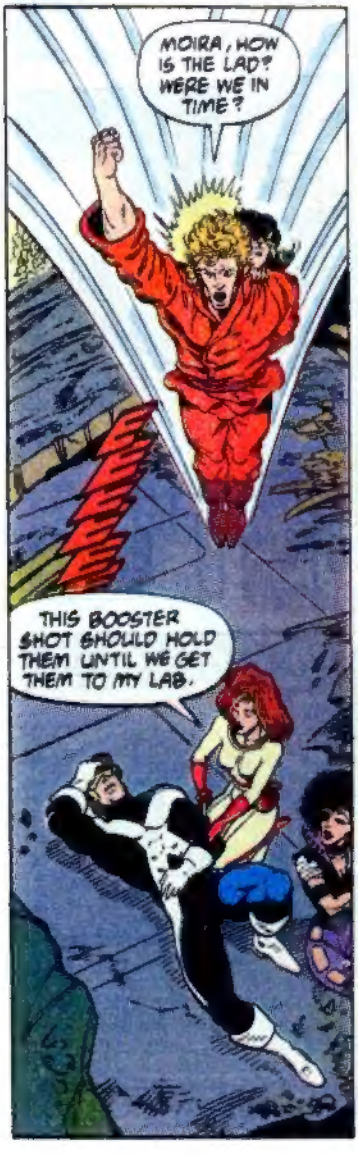
CYCLOPS... THE PAIN...
THE VIRUS... I CAN'T FIGHT IT ANYMORE...
STOP HIM... FOR ALL OUR SAKES...
CAL! NO!
SHRAHT
CONSCIENCE! STOP THE COUNTDOWN!
WHAT DO YOU WANT-- MIRACLES?
HE'S TOO STRONG.
SCOTTIE, WE'RE GOING DOWN WITH THE SHIP. HOWZABOUT A FEW BARS OF 'NEARER MY GOD TO THEE'?
NO!
I CAN'T ACCEPT DEFEAT. I WON'T!
CYCLOPS--
SHRAHT
MASTER MOLD, I DESTROYED YOU ONCE...
I BEAT STEPHEN LANG AND HIS INSANE HATRED...
...AND I'LL DO IT AGAIN!

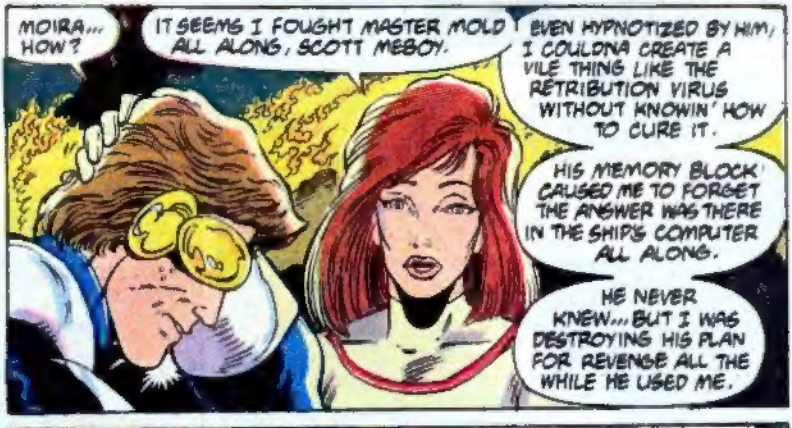

-- YOU MUST!
TH
WOOM
MM! COME ON! YOU'RE RUINING OUR DECOR!
NOT TO MENTION YOUR EVER-LOVIN' BODY.
SHRAKT
NO. SUMMERS WILL NOT DESTROY ME AGAIN...
VAK
SH
NOT EVER AGAIN!
WAM

TRY ME, MASTER MOLD...
...I WAS TRAINED TO DEFEAT EVIL LIKE YOURS.
MY LIFE IS NOTHING COMPARED TO OBLITERATING BLIND BIGOTRY LIKE YOURS.
IMPOSSIBLE!
YOU ARE WRACKED WITH FEVER... YOUR BODY FAILS WITH EACH PASSING MINUTE... AND YET YOU FIGHT ON?
I THINK THEY CALL IT COURAGE, BOSS. OR RIGHTEOUS ANGER... WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S REMARKABLY... HUMAN.
AND YOU FIND THAT ENDEARING, CONSCIENCE?
BUT HE STOPS HIS ASSAULT SUDDENLY... WHY?
OH NO.
LORD, NOT NOW...
I CAN'T...
...DIE...
...NOW...

SCOTTIE, DON'T FAINT AGAIN! THIS IS GETTING MONOTONOUS.
SHUT UP, CONSCIENCE. IT IS OVER...
... AND WE-- WAIT!
EEE EEEEE EEE
THAT SOUND! IT IS NOT POSSIBLE!
I AM NOT PREPARED!
TOO BAD, BOYO--
-- BECAUSE THE BANSHEE IS BACK WITH A VENGEANCE!


AND ME SONIC SCREAM SHOULD FINISH THE JOB THAT CYCLOPS STARTED!


MOIRA, HOW IS THE LAD? WERE WE IN TIME?
THIS BOOSTER SHOT SHOULD HOLD THEM UNTIL WE GET THEM TO MY LAB.


MOIRA... HOW?
IT SEEMS I FOUGHT MASTER MOLD ALL ALONG, SCOTT MEBOY.
EVEN HYPNOTIZED BY HIM, I COULDNA CREATE A VILE THING LIKE THE RETRIBUTION VIRUS WITHOUT KNOWIN' HOW TO CURE IT.
HIS MEMORY BLOCK' CAUSED ME TO FORGET THE ANSWER WAS THERE IN THE SHIP'S COMPUTER ALL ALONG.
HE NEVER KNEW... BUT I WAS DESTROYING HIS PLAN FOR REVENGE ALL THE WHILE HE USED ME.

AT LEAST I'LL BE ABLE TO LIVE WITH MESELF AGAIN.
A SIDE EFFECT OF THE CURE SEEMS TO BE A RETURN OF SEAN'S POWERS, ALTHOUGH IT MAY ONLY BE TEMPORARY. HIS SYSTEM IS IN OVERDRIVE KILLIN' THE VIRUS.

WHETHER ME POWER STAYS OR GOES 'TIS OF LITTLE IMPORTANCE...
...THIS SHIP IS STILL FULL OF THE VIRUS. WE CANNA LEAVE IT BE.

NOT TO WORRY, SEAN O' BOY, I'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT.
I'LL MAKE SURE THE RETRIBUTION VIRUS WON'T HURT ANY MAN OR MUTANT EVER AGAIN.

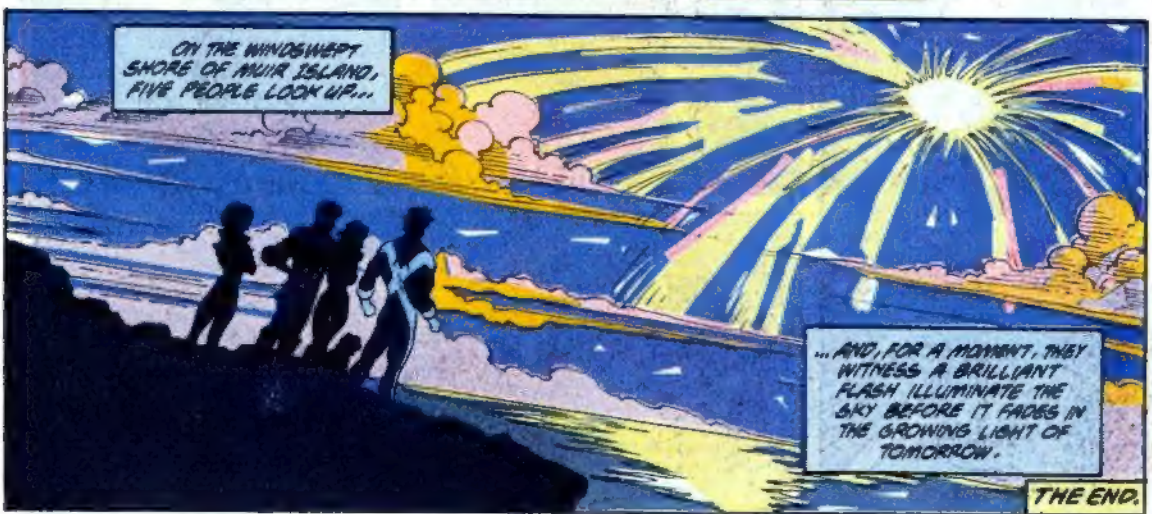
WHY, CONSCIENCE?
YOUR MIND IS STEPHEN LANG'S AND HIS HATRED KNEW NO BOUNDS. BUT YOU--

OH, BUT MY MIND IS ONLY BASED ON LANG'S. IT WAS MY TEMPLATE.
I WAS BUILT TO APPRECIATE THE WONDERS OF MANKIND--ART, LITERATURE, MUSIC.
I LOVED WHAT MAN COULD BE, AT HIS BEST. AND IN THE END, I GUESS I BETTERED MYSELF.
ISN'T THAT WHAT BEING HUMAN IS ALL ABOUT?

"NOW, GO ON, YOU BOZOS, GET OUTTA HERE, BEFORE I GET MUSHY OR SOMETHING."
EEEE

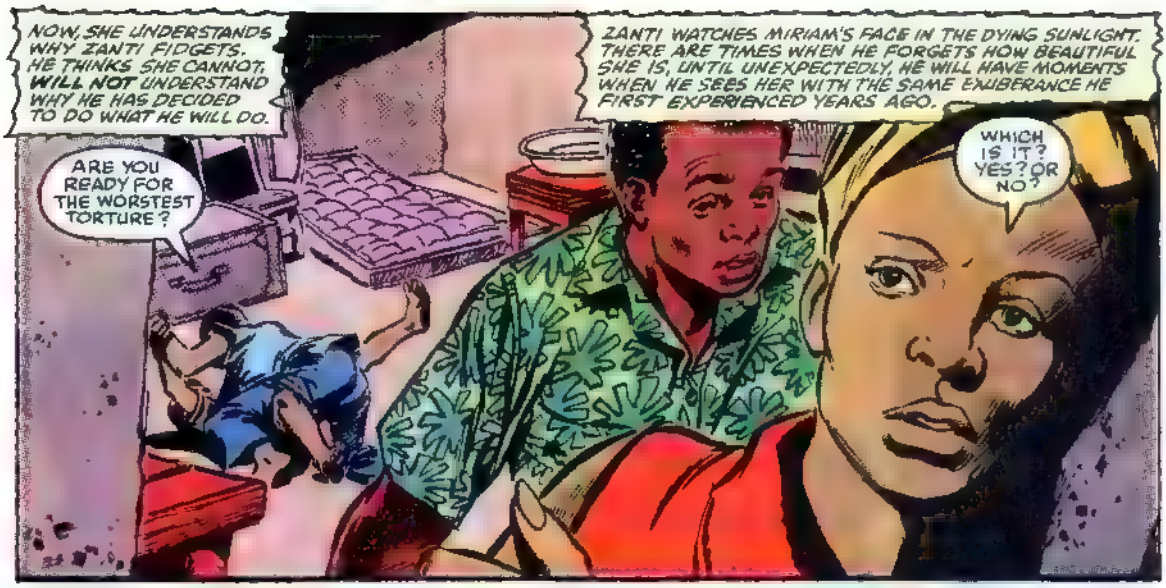
WHO'DA THUNK IT? ME SIDING WITH MUTIES.
MAYBE IT WOULD HAVE BEEN NICE TO LEARN MORE. TOO BAD I DON'T HAVE THE TIME...
COMPUTER, TAKE US INTO ORBIT...

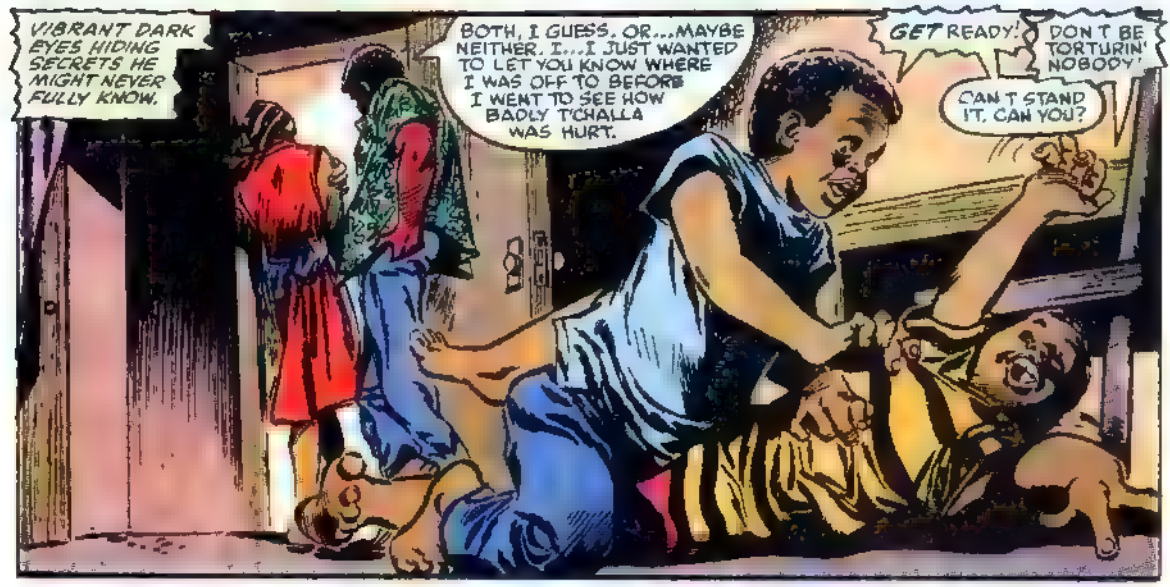
"...AND, BY THE WAY, BEGIN THE AUTO-DESTRUCT PROGRAM."


ON THE WINDSWEPT SHORE OF MUIR ISLAND, FIVE PEOPLE LOOK UP...
...AND, FOR A MOMENT, THEY WITNESS A BRILLIANT FLASH ILLUMINATE THE SKY BEFORE IT FADES IN THE GROWING LIGHT OF TOMORROW.
THE END.

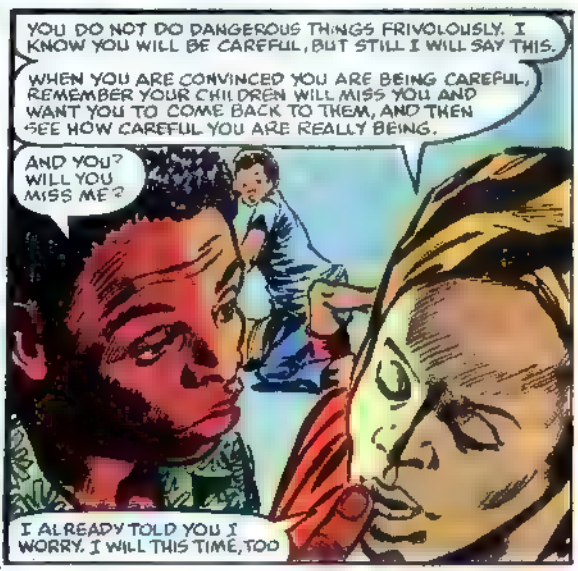
PANTHER'S QUEST
PART XII
STARRING: THE BLACK PANTHER
"A friend is someone to whom you can say any jackass thing that enters your mind. With acquaintances, you are forever aware of their slightly unreal image of you, and to keep them content, you edit yourself to fit. Many marriages are between acquaintances. You can be with a person for three hours of your life and have a friend. Another one will remain an acquaintance for thirty years."
—From the novel, "Bright Orange For The Shroud," by John D. MacDonald
VOICES HEARD, VOICES IGNORED
MIRIAM CHIKANE WOULD NOT AGREE THAT SHE WAS STUBBORN.
HER HUSBAND, ZANTI, SOMETIMES SAID SHE WAS. HE DID NOT SAY IT IN A CRITICAL FASHION, WHICH WAS STRANGE
IT WAS MORE A GRUDGING COMPLIMENT, BECAUSE HE DID NOT MEAN SHE HELD RIGID NOTIONS, BUT HE SAW HER AS A PERSON WHO WOULD NOT BEND TO THE WILL OF THE MAJORITY.
I KNOW I SHOULD NOT LEAVE.

IT WAS INCREDIBLE THAT HE COULD STILL VIEW HER THAT WAY. FOR HE HAD SEEN HER ANGRY, HAD SEEN HER HEAVY-EYED TIRED, HAD SEEN HER VIOLENTLY SICK
I SHOULD STAY WITH YOU AND THE CHILDREN. BUT...
DON'T YOU YANK MY EARS OFF!
I'LL YANK 'EM OFF IF I WANT.
BETTER NOT!
YET, ZANTI STILL SAW HER AS A PERSON WHO WOULD NOT YIELD IN HER CONVICTIONS. AND THAT WAS INCREDIBLE FOR THERE WERE TIMES SHE WAS SO EXHAUSTED, SO DRAINED, THAT SHE WAS SURE THE SPIRIT HAD GONE OUT OF HER
OH, YES, SHE HAS SEEN TIMES OF INTIMIDATION. SHE HAS STOOD FIRM IN HOT SUNLIGHT AS POLICEMEN STOPPED HER FOR THE INDIGNITY OF PASSBOOK CHECKS--
--ONCE IN A WHILE ONE OF THEM OPENLY APPRAISING HER WITH SPECULATIVE EYES; HER OWN DARK EYES UNFLINCHING AND, OKAY, ADMITTEDLY, AS STUBBORN AS STONE.
SHE HAS STOOD AT PUBLIC MEETINGS, HEAD HELD HIGH, CERTAIN IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT SHE RAISE HER VOICE TO BE HEARD--
--EVEN IF NO ONE UNDERSTANDS OR LISTENS, SHE MUST SPEAK THE TRUTH AS SHE KNOWS IT.
I SUPPOSE YOU WILL TELL ME WHAT A FOOLISH MAN I AM.
IS IT MY BLESSING YOU WANT?
NO!
YES.


NOW, SHE UNDERSTANDS WHY ZANTI FIDGETS. HE THINKS SHE CANNOT, WILL NOT UNDERSTAND WHY HE HAS DECIDED TO DO WHAT HE WILL DO.
ZANTI WATCHES MIRIAM'S FACE IN THE DYING SUNLIGHT. THERE ARE TIMES WHEN HE FORGETS HOW BEAUTIFUL SHE IS, UNTIL UNEXPECTEDLY, HE WILL HAVE MOMENTS WHEN HE SEES HER WITH THE SAME EXUBERANCE HE FIRST EXPERIENCED YEARS AGO.
ARE YOU READY FOR THE WORSTEST TORTURE?
WHICH IS IT? YES? OR NO?

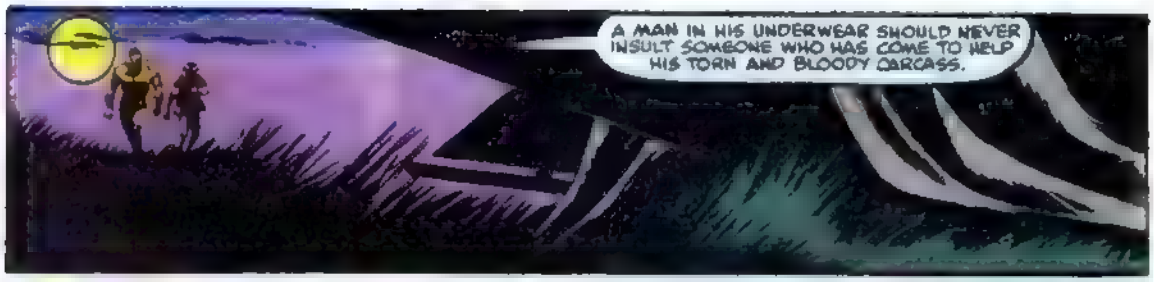

VIBRANT DARK EYES HIDING SECRETS HE MIGHT NEVER FULLY KNOW.
BOTH, I GUESS. OR...MAYBE NEITHER. I...I JUST WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW WHERE I WAS OFF TO BEFORE I WENT TO SEE HOW BADLY T'CHALLA WAS HURT.
GET READY!
DON'T BE TORTURIN' NOBODY!
CAN'T STAND IT, CAN YOU?

I AM GLAD YOU DID. I AM NOT GOING TO SAY I AM HAPPY YOU ARE GETTING MIXED UP IN THIS, WHATEVER IS GOING ON --
--AND I AM AFRAID FOR YOU FOR WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN TO YOU BUT I WOULD NOT STOP YOU.

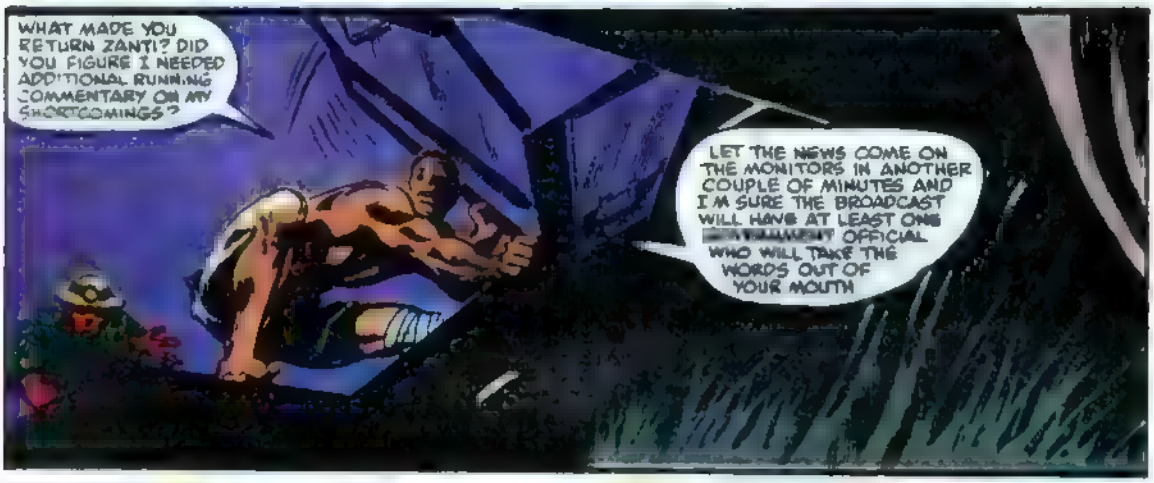

YOU DO NOT DO DANGEROUS THINGS FRIVOLOUSLY. I KNOW YOU WILL BE CAREFUL, BUT STILL I WILL SAY THIS.
WHEN YOU ARE CONVINCED YOU ARE BEING CAREFUL, REMEMBER YOUR CHILDREN WILL MISS YOU AND WANT YOU TO COME BACK TO THEM, AND THEN SEE HOW CAREFUL YOU ARE REALLY BEING.
AND YOU? WILL YOU MISS ME?
I ALREADY TOLD YOU I WORRY. I WILL THIS TIME, TOO

HE TASTES HER LIPS, WARM AND HUNGRY--
--AND HE DOES NOT WANT TO LEAVE.
FATHER, I WANT TO GO WITH YOU.
NO, NOT THIS TIME.
WHERE YOU GOING?
TO TRY TO HELP A MAN
I CAN HELP I CAN BE A BIG HELP
YES. I KNOW THAT. YOU HELP ME MY SON. DID YOU KNOW THAT?
YOU MEAN LIKE WHEN WE PATCHED UP THE CEILING AND I HANDED YOU THE BOARDS?
YES, THAT
I DID THAT GOOD, DIDN'T I?
VERY GOOD
BUT YOU HELP ME IN OTHER WAYS YOU WILL NOT UNDERSTAND UNTIL YOU ARE OLDER. YOU HELP ME TRY TO DO THE RIGHT THING WHEN PERHAPS I WOULD TRY TO LOOK AWAY FROM IT.
YOU WILL NOT BE GONE LONG?
I WILL TRY NOT TO BE. ON THAT, I PROMISE.
BYE, FATHER
DID YOU HEAR ME FATHER?
I HEAR YOU
GOOD-BYE NOW.
I'M GOING!
ARE YOU DEAF? WE JUST SAID "GOOD-BYE"
BUT...

IMMENSE NIGHT--
--SLASHED BY STILL-BORN LEAVES.
NO BREEZE TONIGHT TO COOL THE GREAT BLACK CAT--
SCRAPE SCRAPE
--TO CARRY SPOOR ON ITS INVISIBLE PASSAGE.
SCR
APE
BUT SOUND CARRIES FAR IN THE STILLNESS
WHAT?
WHO?
OH, IT'S YOU.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "IT'S YOU."?
I MAKE THIS BIG DECISION TO TREK OUT HERE IN THE DARK, RISK NIGHT PATROLS, AND WHAT DO I GET IN RETURN?
"Oh it's you."
I MEANT YOU WEREN'T ANY ENEMY.
HOW KIND OF YOU. HOW D YOU KNOW I WAS COMING?
I THOUGHT AN ELEPHANT WAS RAMPAGING THROUGH THE TREES.
SCRAPE
THERE AREN'T ANY ELEPHANTS AROUND HERE.
I KNOW THAT. THAT'S WHY I THOUGHT I'D SEE WHAT WAS ON THE PROWL
HOW UNKIND OF YOU.


A MAN IN HIS UNDERWEAR SHOULD NEVER INSULT SOMEONE WHO HAS COME TO HELP HIS TORN AND BLOODY CARCASS.

I WAS NOT EXPECTING YOU, AND YOU CAME BEFORE I COULD CHANGE MY BANDAGES AND BE ON MY WAY


WHAT MADE YOU RETURN ZANTI? DID YOU FIGURE I NEEDED ADDITIONAL RUNNING COMMENTARY ON MY SHORTCOMINGS?
LET THE NEWS COME ON THE MONITORS IN ANOTHER COUPLE OF MINUTES AND I'M SURE THE BROADCAST WILL HAVE AT LEAST ONE [redacted] OFFICIAL WHO WILL TAKE THE WORDS OUT OF YOUR MOUTH

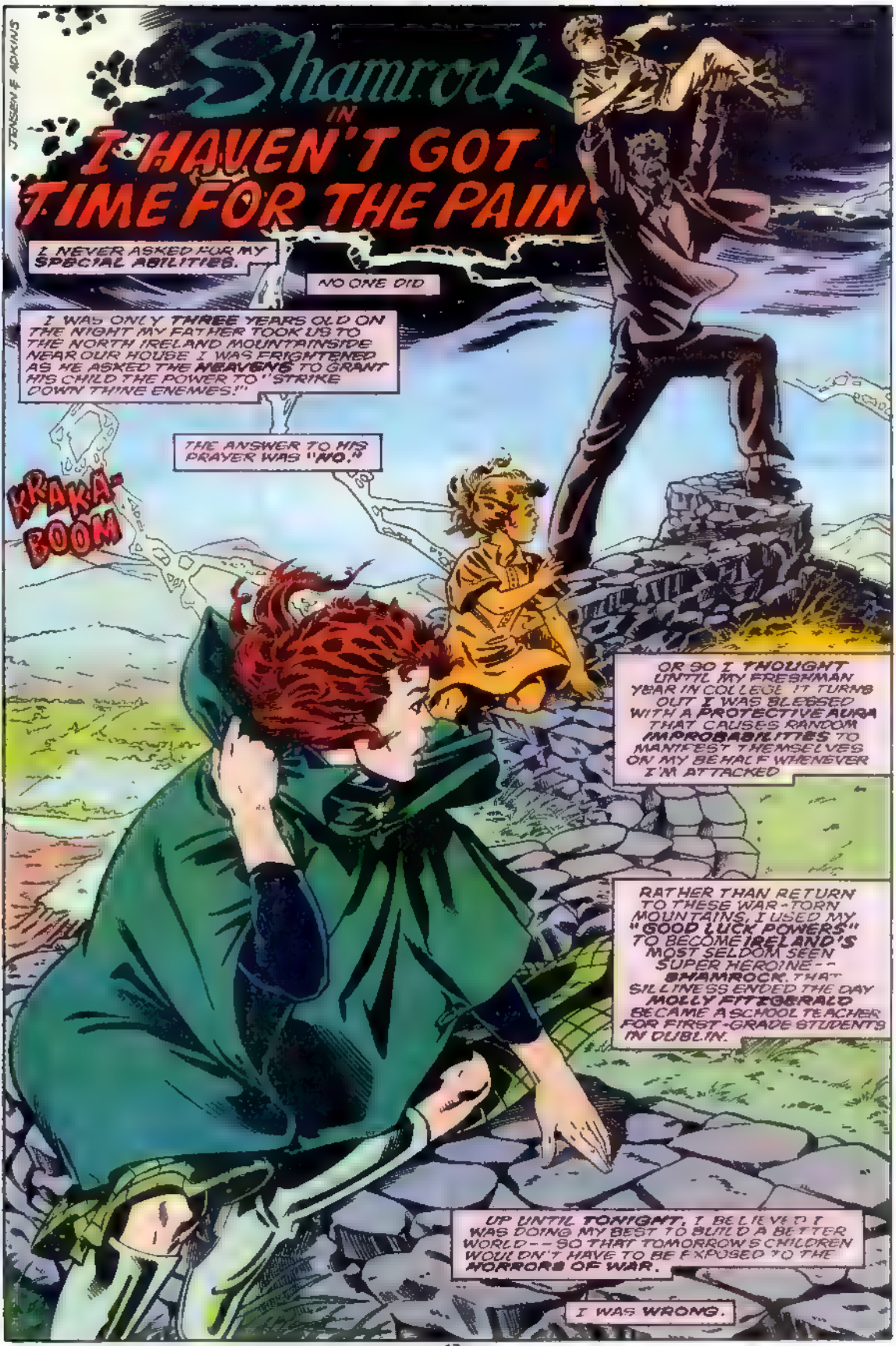
YOU DID IT AGAIN, HUH? MORE BLOOD. ANOTHER TORN OUTFIT. HOW MANY OF THOSE DO YOU HAVE?
IF THINGS KEEP GOING THE WAY THEY HAVE... NOT ENOUGH.
ON THE OTHER HAND, A SUPPLY OF SIMILAR OUTFITS LIKE THIS MEANS YOU NEVER HAVE TO [redacted] ABOUT MISMATCHED SOCKS
I DON'T BELIEVE THAT HAS EVER BEEN A THING I WORRIED ABOUT

AHHH
THAT LOOKS LIKE IT MUST HURT!
THAT'S...
...BECAUSE...
...IT DOES

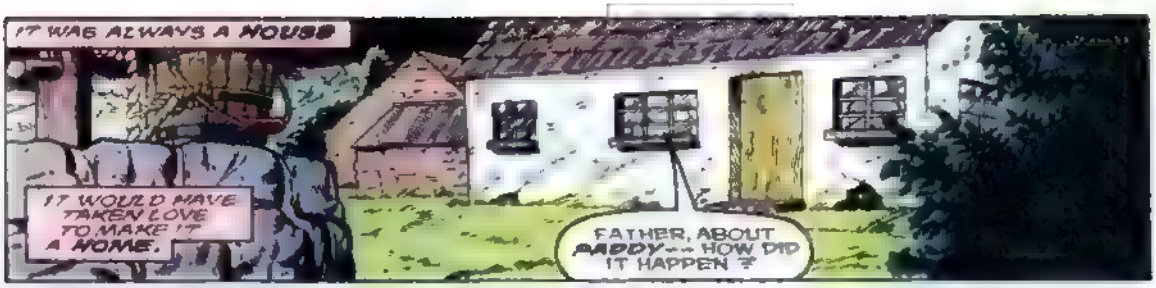
HOW CAN YOU STAND IT?
DO I HAVE A CHOICE?

YOU DID NOT ANSWER MY QUESTION. WHY RETURN? YOU WERE SAFE
MIRIAM AND I DISCUSSED IT. I THINK IT WAS THE BOY THAT DECIDED IN YOUR FAVOR
THE BOY WHO WAS TEAR-GASSED?
THERE WERE MANY CHILDREN SO AFFLICTED BUT YES, IF YOU ARE REFERRING TO THE CHILD IN FRONT OF SLADE'S
MIR AM HEARD THAT YOU SAVED HIM FROM BEING RUN DOWN. I MYSELF DID NOT SEE THAT PART
YOU DID NOT HAVE TO. BUT YOU RISKED YOUR LIFE TO SAVE THAT BOY
MINT AND EUCALYPTUS SCENTED LIQUID SQUISHES OUT OF THE HEART-SHAPED HERB, COOL AS MORNINGS DEW UNTIL IT PENETRATES INTO THE BULLET WOUND WHERE IT BURNS AS HOT AS WASP BITES
I THOUGHT YOU WERE WELL, TO PUT IT BLUNTLY, A DEAD MAN YOU KNOW. WHEN I RETURNED AND SAW THE TROOPS SURROUNDING YOU
UNNH
IT SMELLS GOOD DOESN'T FEEL TOO GOOD HUH? YUCH! YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW NAASSTY THAT LOOKS BUT DON'T WORRY I WON'T FAINT OR THROW UP OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
THAT'S TO BE SURE. SMILING
ANOTHER REASON TO RETURN WAS THE MATTER OF THE MAN ON THE ROOFTOP
HUH? WHAT MAN? ON WHAT ROOFTOP?
ACROSS FROM SLADE'S HE HAD BINOCULARS AND ONE OF THOSE RADIOS YOU TALK INTO.
THAT'S HOW I CAME TO SEE HIM
DO YOU KNOW HIM?
NO I DON'T
NOT COMMON [redacted] BLACK LIVING IN THIS AREA
HE WAS WATCHING THE STORE?
I WOULD THINK HE WAS AWAITING YOUR ARRIVAL HE LEFT AS SOON AS YOU ENTERED THE SHOP

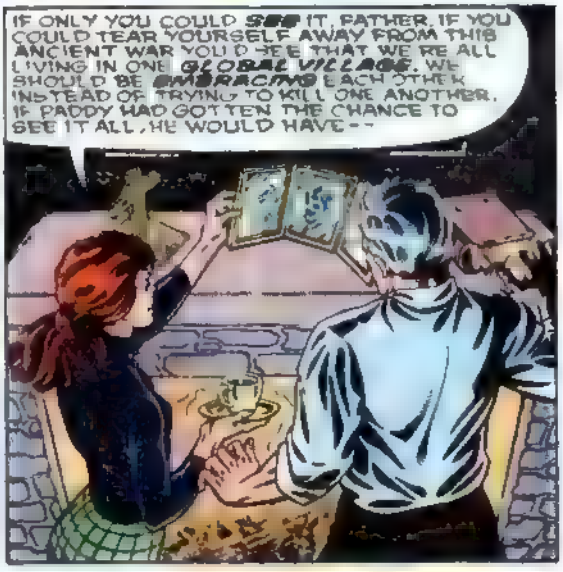
HE COULD HAVE BEEN A LEAD IF SLADE DOES NOT SHOW TONIGHT.
WELL..
I DID FOLLOW HIM.
WHO? THE MAN?
WHO ELSE?
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?
I JUST DID.
YOU DON'T APPRECIATE WHAT I GO THROUGH FOR YOU. I TRY TO PATCH YOU UP AND YOU GO OUT AND GET FRESH WOUNDS! I REALLY SHOULD GIVE UP ON YOU.
WAIT UP, ZANTI! LET ME TURN OFF THE MUTING EFFECT.
MUTING
THAT'S A PICTURE OF W'KABI.
NEVER HEARD OF HIM. WHAT'S HE GOT, A METAL ARM?
OFF
OF A KIND, AND BEFORE YOU ASK, YES, IT HURT HIM WHEN HE LOST THE ARM.
I WASN'T GOING TO ASK THAT.
...AS THE CONFERENCE CONTINUED THE WAKANDAN HEAD OF COURT SECURITY ADMITTED YESTERDAY THAT THEIR KING WAS NOT IN WAKANDA--
--BUT VIGOROUSLY DENIED ANY ALLEGATION THAT THE BLACK PANTHER HAD ANY POLITICAL TIES WITH ANY COMMUNIST MOVEMENT.
THEY ALSO ARE EMPHATIC IN THEIR DENIALS THAT THEIR KING'S WHEREABOUTS IS ON SOUTH AFRICAN SOIL.
IN RESPONSE, MAGISTRATE OF COMMUNICATIONS ANTON PRETORIUS, VEHEMENTLY DENOUNCED THE WAKANDANS' LACK OF CANDOR.
MINISTER OF SECURITY DOEKE RIEBEECK STATED THERE ARE MANY RELIABLE WITNESSES AND VICTIMS IN SOUTH AFRICAN SECURITY FORCES INCLUDING SPECIAL BRANCH AND NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE PERSONNEL, TO ATTEST TO THE PANTHER'S ILLEGAL AND DANGEROUS PRESENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA.
VOICES THAT CANNOT BE IGNORED. HE CON
OFF
KLIK
CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE...

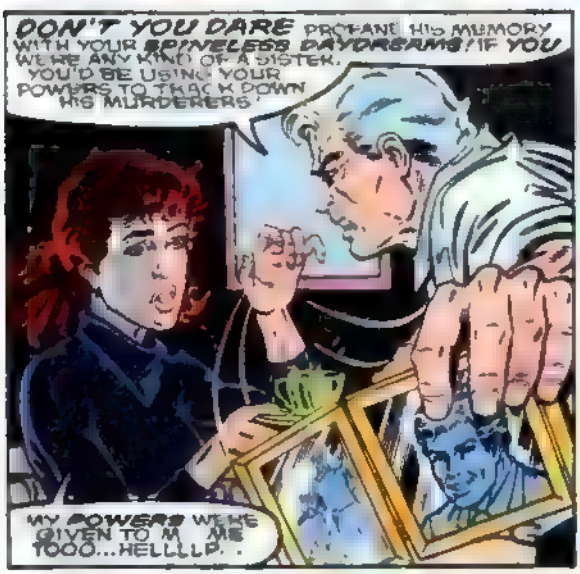

JENSEN & ADKINS
Shamrock
IN
I HAVEN'T GOT TIME FOR THE PAIN
I NEVER ASKED FOR MY SPECIAL ABILITIES.
NO ONE DID
I WAS ONLY THREE YEARS OLD ON THE NIGHT MY FATHER TOOK US TO THE NORTH IRELAND MOUNTAINSIDE NEAR OUR HOUSE. I WAS FRIGHTENED AS HE ASKED THE HEAVENS TO GRANT HIS CHILD THE POWER TO "STRIKE DOWN THINE ENEMIES!"
THE ANSWER TO HIS PRAYER WAS "NO."
KRAKA-BOOM
OR SO I THOUGHT UNTIL MY FRESHMAN YEAR IN COLLEGE. IT TURNS OUT I WAS BLESSED WITH A PROTECTIVE AURA THAT CAUSES RANDOM IMPROBABILITIES TO MANIFEST THEMSELVES ON MY BEHALF WHENEVER I'M ATTACKED
RATHER THAN RETURN TO THESE WAR-TORN MOUNTAINS, I USED MY "GOOD LUCK POWERS" TO BECOME IRELAND'S MOST SELDOM SEEN SUPER HEROINE--SHAMROCK. THAT SILLINESS ENDED THE DAY MOLLY FITZGERALD BECAME A SCHOOL TEACHER FOR FIRST-GRADE STUDENTS IN DUBLIN.
UP UNTIL TONIGHT, I BELIEVED I WAS DOING MY BEST TO BUILD A BETTER WORLD--SO THAT TOMORROW'S CHILDREN WOULDN'T HAVE TO BE EXPOSED TO THE HORRORS OF WAR.
I WAS WRONG.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
THE SANCTUARY OF MY MEMORIES WAS BLOWN TO THE WINDS BY THE SUDDEN STEELY GRASP UPON MY SHOULDER
FATHER!
I HADN'T SEEN HIM SINCE I BEGAN TEACHING. I HADN'T HEARD FROM HIM UNTIL THE TELEGRAM I RECEIVED TWO DAYS AGO--THE ONE THAT INFORMED ME OF MY BROTHER'S DEATH
I HAD PRAYED THE WHOLE WAY HOME THAT THE YEARS APART HAD SOMEHOW CLOSED THE GAP BETWEEN AN ESTRANGED FATHER AND DAUGHTER
I ASKED YOU WHAT YOU'RE DOING HERE.
APPARENTLY, A RECONCILIATION WASN'T MEANT TO BE
I WAS HOPING THAT YOU AND I MIGHT BE ABLE TO SALVAGE WHAT IS LEFT OF THE FITZGERALD FAMILY BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE
IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE, MOLLY! BECAUSE YOU WEREN'T HERE TO PROTECT HIM, YOUR BROTHER IS DEAD! HIS BLOOD IS ON YOUR HANDS AS SURELY AS IF YOU'D MURDERED HIM YOURSELF!
STOP IT, FATHER! I CAME HERE TO PAY MY RESPECTS, TO GRIEVE THE LOSS OF MY BROTHER--NOT TO BE SUBJECTED TO YOUR DOCTRINE OF HATRED AND GUILT. HASN'T THIS WAR CLAIMED ENOUGH LIVES? WON'T IT EVER END?
NOT FOR ME NOT WHILE I'M ALIVE
BUT YOU'RE RIGHT--THIS IS A TIME WE SHOULD BE TOGETHER
THE STORM IS GETTING WORSE, MOLLY
KER-RACK!
COME BACK TO THE HOUSE!


IT WAS ALWAYS A HOUSE
IT WOULD HAVE TAKEN LOVE TO MAKE IT A HOME.
FATHER, ABOUT PADDY--- HOW DID IT HAPPEN ?

SHORTLY AFTER YOU ABANDONED US, YOUR BROTHER TOOK UP THE GOOD FIGHT. I WISH I COULD SAY THAT HE DIED IN BATTLE. THE TRUTH IS, HE WAS KILLED BY A TERRORIST'S BOMB THAT WAS HIDDEN IN A SHOPPING MALL. STILL, I'M SURE YOUR MOTHER--LORD REST HER SOUL--IS PROUD OF ONE OF HER CHILDREN.
THAT WAS SUBTLE. TRY AS HARD AS YOU LIKE, I REFUSE TO APOLOGIZE FOR MY DECISION TO TEACH THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY THAT THERE'S A WHOLE WORLD OUTSIDE OF THESE WAR-TORN HILLS


IF ONLY YOU COULD SEE IT, FATHER. IF YOU COULD TEAR YOURSELF AWAY FROM THIS ANCIENT WAR YOU'D SEE THAT WE'RE ALL LIVING IN ONE GLOBAL VILLAGE. WE SHOULD BE EMBRACING EACH OTHER INSTEAD OF TRYING TO KILL ONE ANOTHER. IF PADDY HAD GOTTEN THE CHANCE TO SEE IT ALL, HE WOULD HAVE--


DON'T YOU DARE PROFANE HIS MEMORY WITH YOUR SPINELESS DAYDREAMS! IF YOU WERE ANY KIND OF A SISTER, YOU'D BE USING YOUR POWERS TO TRACK DOWN HIS MURDERERS!
MY POWERS! WE'RE GIVEN TO M__ ME TOOO...HELLLLP. .

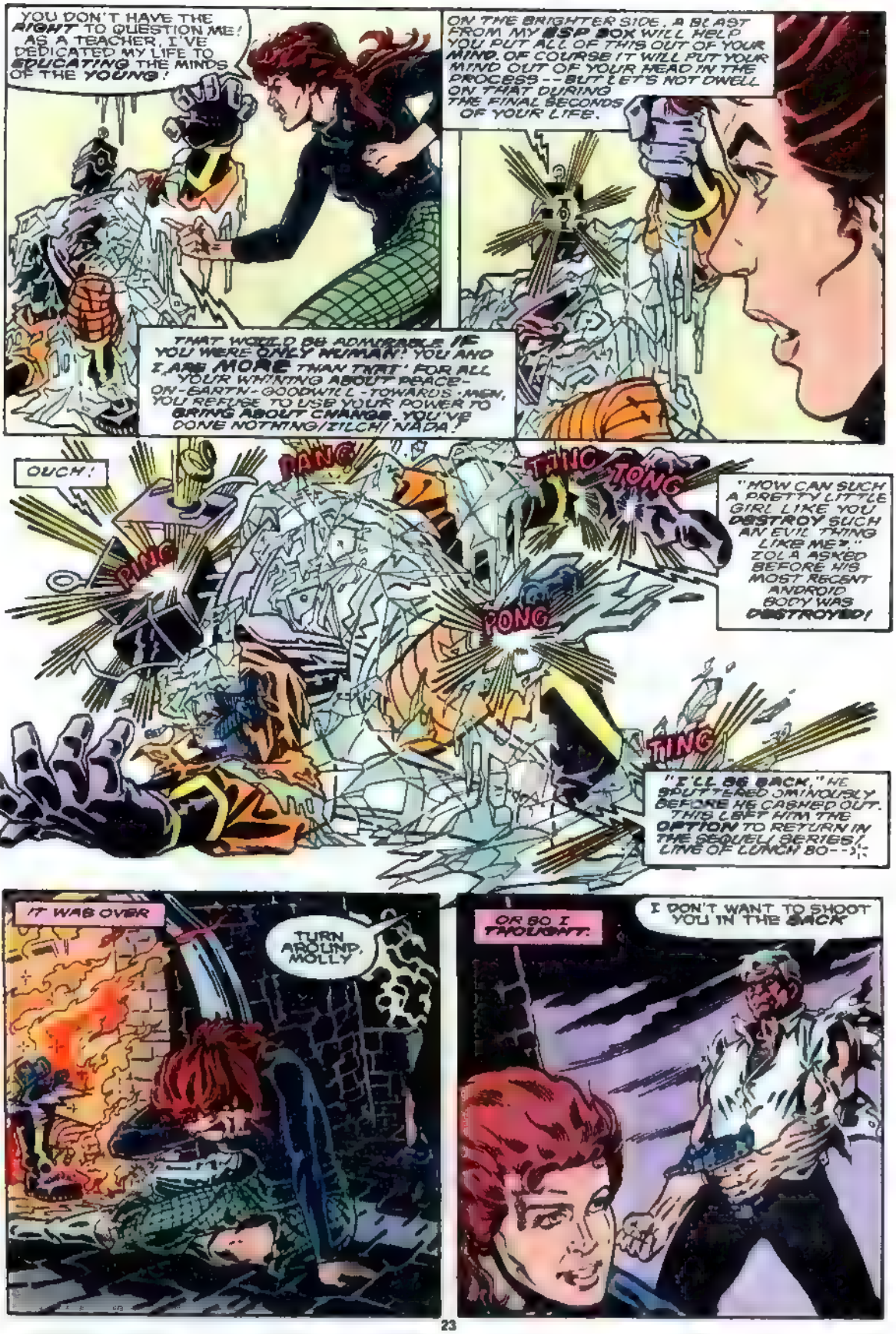
THE TEA--- DRUGGED.

FATHER WHAT ARE YOU DOING ?
I'M DOING WHAT HAS TO BE DONE.

I ONLY WISH I'D STAYED THAT WAY.
SHE'D BETTER WAKE UP SOON-- SHE'S GOING TO MISS ALL THE EXCITEMENT!
-UHHHNNN-
THERE YOU GO--CUE THE MUSIC! HIT THE LIGHTS! IT'S SHOW TIME!
I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I WAS UNCONSCIOUS
TOPPO--TOPTOPPO--TOP O' THE MORNING TO YOU MISS MOLLY! I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS TIME/MOMENT/INSTANT TO INTRODUCE MYSELF AS "THE GREAT AND POWERFUL ARNIM ZOLA", BUT I'M SURE YOU KNOW THAT ALREADY AND IF YOU DIDN'T--YOU KNOW NOW! YA KNOW?
I'VE READ THE HISTORY BOOKS AND I KNOW THAT DR. ZOLA WAS A BRILLIANT BIOCHEMIST! YOU'RE ONLY A MECHANICAL MOCKERY OF THAT MAN--AND ONE WHOSE GEARS HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN STRIPPED, TO BOOT!
NAUGHT--NAUGHTYNAME-CALL-NAME CALLING IS NAUGHTY, TEACH! NO APPLE FOR YOU! MAYBE YOU'LL BE MORE POLITE/RESPECTFUL/REVERENT IN THE PRESENCE OF YOUR DEAR OLD DAD!
FATHER!
OKAY YOU WIN--"DEAR OLD FATHER!"

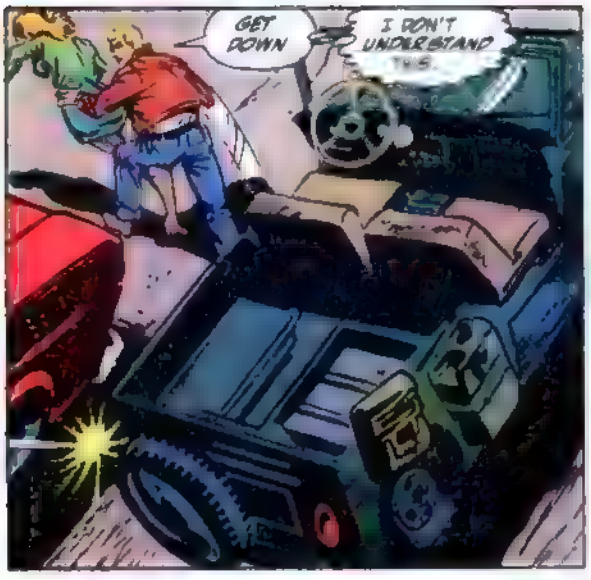
NOW, IF EVERYTHING DEAROLD-FATHER TOLD ME IS CORRECT I'M CONFIDENT / POSITIVE PRETTY SURE THAT PSIONIC DISSECTION SHOULD ALLOW ME TO DUPLICATE YOUR POWERS OF COURSE YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO TAKE MY WORD ON THAT BECAUSE YOU'LL BE DEAD--DEADER THAN DEAD
ZAP
MY ABILITIES WERE GIVEN TO ME BY A POWER GREATER THAN YOURS IT'S NOT YOUR RIGHT TO DEFILE THEM!
YEAH WELL I'M KIND OF IMPULSIVE THAT WAY NOW, IF MR FITZ-PERSON WOULD BE SO KIND/GRACIOUS/NICE AS TO PULL THE SWITCH--
IT WILL BE MY PLEASURE SOON THE POWER WILL BE IN THE HANDS OF PEOPLE WHO AREN'T AFRAID TO USE IT
PSEEYARRGH!
"SEEEEYARRGH!" SHE SCREAMED AS THE VILLAIN'S PATENTED ESP BOX VIOLATED THE INNER RECESSES OF HER PSYCHE! OOOOOO! THIS IS SO EXCITING! I COULD--SLEEEEEEP!
BY THE LOOK ON ZOLA'S FACE, HIS PROBE HAD DISCOVERED THE SECRET OF MY "GOOD LUCK POWERS."
AS NEAR AS I CAN TELL, I'M A VESSEL FOR ALL THE COUNTLESS SOULS THAT HAVE DIED AS INNOCENT VICTIMS OF WAR.
POOM
POP
POP
SNAP KRACKLE KRAK
UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, THESE DISPLACED POLTERGEISTS MANIFEST THEMSELVES--ONE AT A TIME AND ONLY FOR A FRACTION OF AN INSTANT--AS A TELEKINETIC BURST OF ENERGY THAT ULTIMATELY CAUSES IMPROBABLE INCIDENTS TO OCCUR ON MY BEHALF.
FOR THE BRIEF MOMENT THAT ZOLA'S MIND TOUCHED MINE, THOUSANDS OF THOSE SPIRITS MADE THEIR PRESENCE KNOWN.

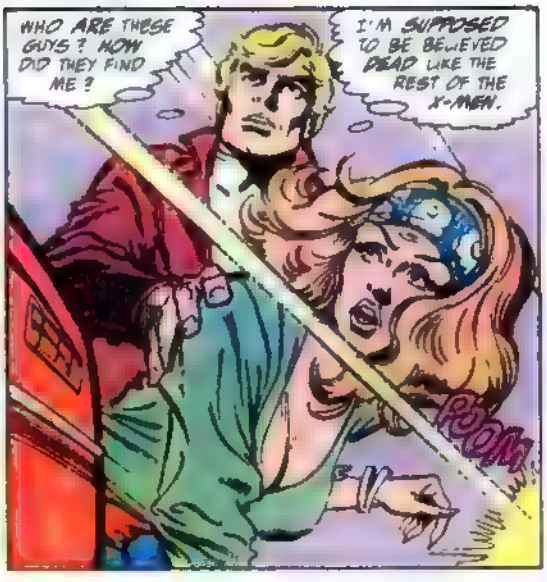
SECONDS LATER, EVERYTHING RETURNED TO 'NORMAL'. ONLY THE RESULTS REMAINED.
SO ROCK--ROCKO SHAM--SO SHAMROCK, IT'S ALL TRUE! COUNTLESS SOULS TRYING TO PRY THEIR WAY INTO THIS DIMENSION SO THEY MIGHT AVENGE THEMSELVES? DON'T YOU REALIZE THAT YOUR FATHER AND I CAN HELP THEM ACHIEVE THEIR GOAL? AT THE VERY LEAST, I CAN SECURE THE BOOK AND MOVIE RIGHTS
THERE WAS A REASON THAT I WAS CHOSEN TO WIELD THIS POWER! IT IS SACRED--THESE SPIRITS SEEK TO END WAR, NOT PERPETUATE IT!
PING
I MAY NEVER UNDERSTAND WHY--BUT THESE POWERS SERVE ME.
ZAP
FOOM
SEE?
OH SAY, I CAN SEE! I SEE A FRIGHTENED LITTLE GIRL WITH INCREDIBLE POWER! POWER! POWER! SO MAYBE YOU DON'T WANT TO RULE THE WORLD--YOU AT LEAST HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO CHANGE IT!
PIP
I TOTALLY RE-[illegible] MY ENTIRE BODY FOR A CAUSE! GRANTED, IT ISN'T THE MOST ATTRACTIVE BODY I COULD HAVE DESIGNED--BUT THE POINT IS, I DID SOMETHING!
YEARS AGO I USED MY GENIUS TO HELP HITLER TRY TO TAKE OVER THE WORLD. NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THAT'S PROBABLY WHAT DROVE ME MAD! MMMMMMMM!
THE SAD THING IS HE ALMOST DID IT--BECAUSE PEOPLE LIKE YOU WANTED TO SIT AROUND AND WISH AWAY THE VIOLENCE!
SNAP
MA' UNLUCKY BREAK SHAMROCK! I GUESS ALL MY TAMPERING/TINKERING/FOOLING AROUND IN YOUR MIND HAS AFFECTED YOUR LUCKY CHARMS!
THEN AGAIN
BLOOSH
AS THE COOLANT FROZE MM TO THE SPOT, I FELT NO JOY OVER MY VICTORY--ONLY ANGER.

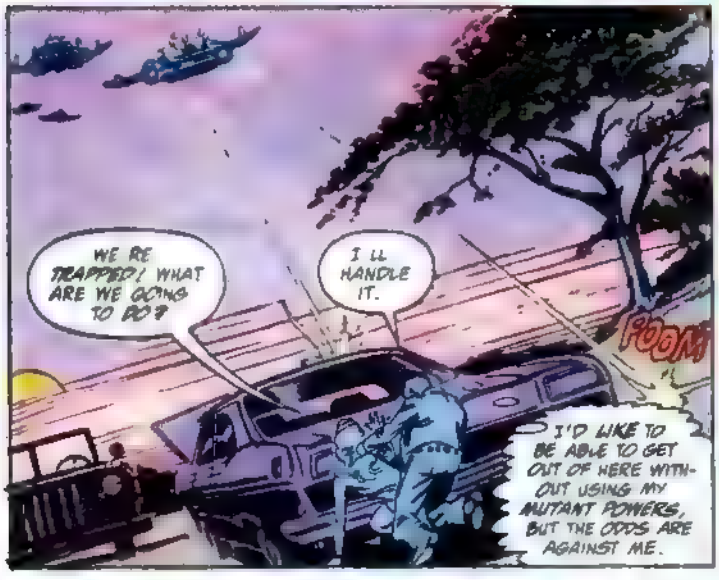

YOU DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO QUESTION ME! AS A TEACHER, I'VE DEDICATED MY LIFE TO EDUCATING THE MINDS OF THE YOUNG!
ON THE BRIGHTER SIDE, A BLAST FROM MY ESP BOX WILL HELP YOU PUT ALL OF THIS OUT OF YOUR MIND. OF COURSE IT WILL PUT YOUR MIND OUT OF YOUR HEAD IN THE PROCESS -- BUT LET'S NOT DWELL ON THAT DURING THE FINAL SECONDS OF YOUR LIFE.
THAT WOULD BE ADMIRABLE IF YOU WERE ONLY HUMAN! YOU AND I ARE MORE THAN THAT! FOR ALL YOUR WHINING ABOUT PEACE-ON-EARTH-GOODWILL-TOWARDS-MEN, YOU REFUSE TO USE YOUR POWER TO BRING ABOUT CHANGE. YOU'VE DONE NOTHING/ZILCH/ NADA!
OUCH!
PANG
TING
TONG
RING
PONG
"HOW CAN SUCH A PRETTY LITTLE GIRL LIKE YOU DESTROY SUCH AN EVIL THING LIKE ME?" ZOLA ASKED BEFORE HIS MOST RECENT ANDROID BODY WAS DESTROYED!
TING
"I'LL BE BACK," HE SPUTTERED OMINOUSLY BEFORE HE CASHED OUT. THIS LEFT HIM THE OPTION TO RETURN IN THE SEQUEL SERIES/ LINE OF LUNCH BO--
IT WAS OVER
TURN AROUND, MOLLY
OR SO I THOUGHT.
I DON'T WANT TO SHOOT YOU IN THE BACK

YOU SAY THAT YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN VIOLENCE--THEN YOU TURN AROUND AND KILL A BRILLIANT SCIENTIST LIKE DR ZOLA! DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND THAT WE CAN END THIS WAR IF WE HAVE THE POWER TO WIN?!
HE WAS GONE.
I SHOULD HAVE DONE THIS YEARS AGO! WITH YOU DEAD, MAYBE PADDY WOULD HAVE GOTTEN THE POWERS THAT WERE RIGHTFULLY HIS!
PLEASE FATHER--DON'T DO THIS...
I KNOW IN MY HEART THAT I HAVE NO CONTROL OVER MY POWERS--
BA-WHOOM
--ANY MORE THAN I HAD CONTROL OVER MY FATHER AS HE FIRED THE GUN.
I'D RETURNED TO THESE MOUNTAINS TO GRIEVE FOR THE LOSS OF MY FAMILY--
--BUT I FOUND I HAD NO TEARS TO SHED
I STAYED TO BATTLE A MONSTER WHO TAUGHT ME MORE ABOUT MY RESPONSIBILITY TOWARD HUMANITY THAN I HAD LEARNED FROM MY OWN FATHER
MAYBE THAT'S WHY I COULDN'T MOURN. NOT BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO, BUT BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THE PAIN.
...I HAVE A WORLD TO SAVE--FROM ITSELF.
THE END!

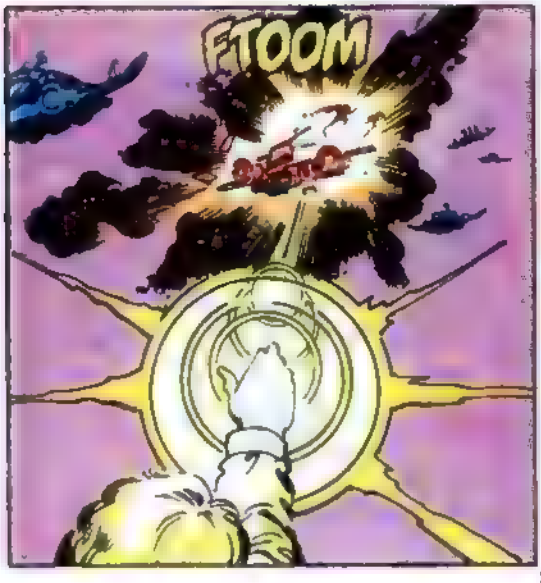
THE AUSTRALIAN OUTBACK...
ALEX SUMMERS, THE X-MAN KNOWN AS HAVOK, IS TAKING A LONG-NEEDED REST
AWAY FROM THE REST OF THE TEAM, HE WANTS NOTHING MORE THAN TO TAKE IN THE NATURAL WONDERS THE AUSTRALIAN CONTINENT HAS TO OFFER...
NICE.
NOW WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?
EXCUSE ME, MISS. NEED SOME HELP?
I THINK THE ONLY THING THAT WOULD HELP THIS CHEAP RENTAL IS A BULLET
BUT YOU COULD GIVE ME A LIFT TO THE NEXT TOWN... WHEREVER THAT MAY-- OH, NO!
MISS, IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG?
BEHIND YOU!
FLAP!
FLAP!
FLAP!
FLAP!
HAVOK
PHARAOH'S LEGACY • 1
CHANGE OF HEART

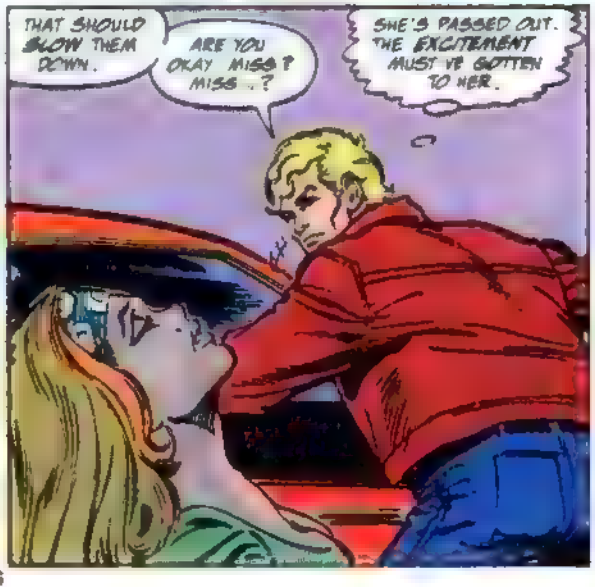

GET DOWN
I DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS.


WHO ARE THESE GUYS? HOW DID THEY FIND ME?
I'M SUPPOSED TO BE BELIEVED DEAD LIKE THE REST OF THE X-MEN.
POOM

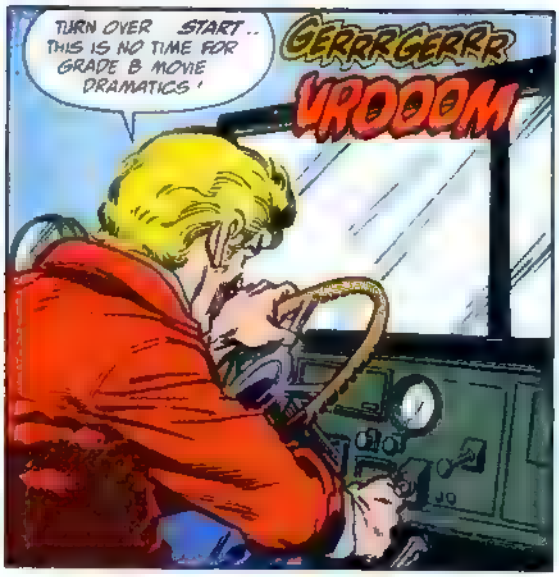

WE'RE TRAPPED! WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
I'LL HANDLE IT.
POOM
I'D LIKE TO BE ABLE TO GET OUT OF HERE WITHOUT USING MY MUTANT POWERS, BUT THE ODDS ARE AGAINST ME.

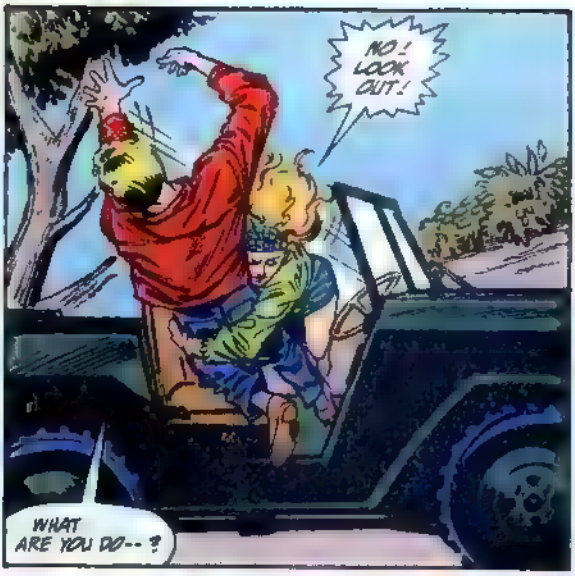
I HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE

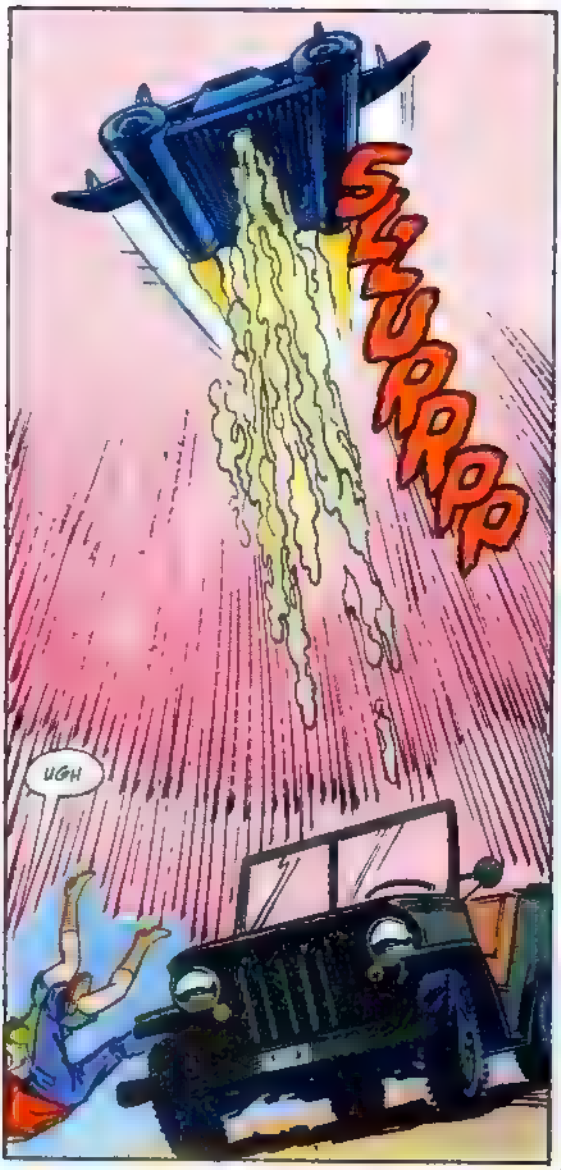

FTOOM


THAT SHOULD SLOW THEM DOWN.
ARE YOU OKAY MISS? MISS..?
SHE'S PASSED OUT. THE EXCITEMENT MUST'VE GOTTEN TO HER.

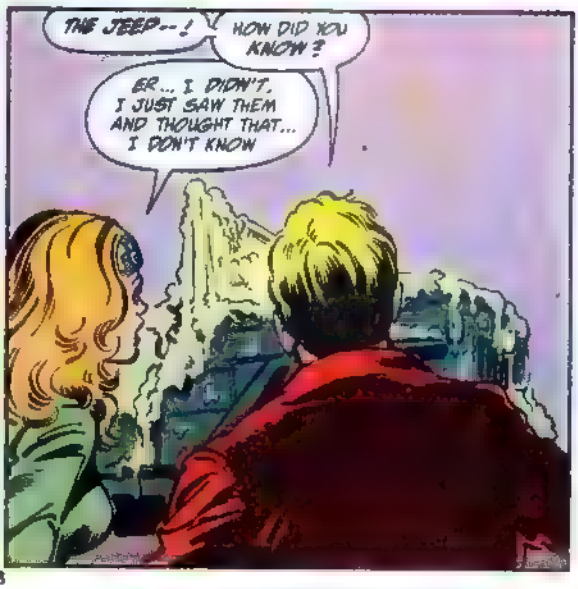
HE TOOK OUT L NG'S SLED!
GET ME N CLOSER AND I LL MAKE H'M REGRET IT'
THEY'RE POURING IT ON!
PZZZZT
PZAK
FZZZT
JOCKEYING FOR A POSIT'ON TO OUTFLANK ME THEY RE GOOD WHOEVER THEY ARE
THEY WANT ME NOT THE GIRL
I'LL JUST HAVE TO TRY AND LEAD THEM AWAY FROM HER
IT'S WORKING.
HE'S WHERE WE WANT H'M MATE YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO
STEADY AS SHE GOES, BRENDAN.

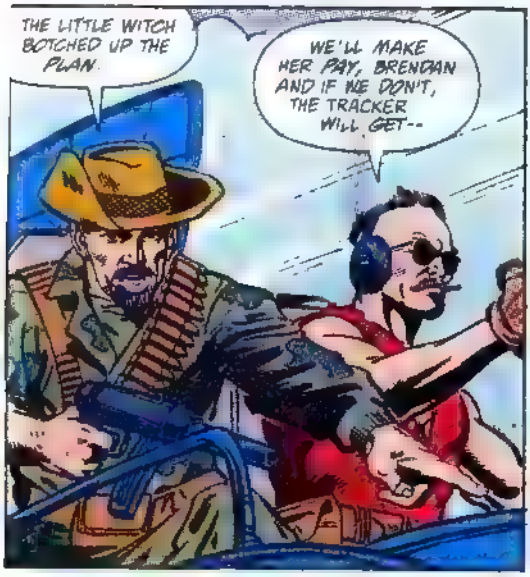

TURN OVER START.. THIS IS NO TIME FOR GRADE B MOVIE DRAMATICS!
GERRRGERRR
VROOOM

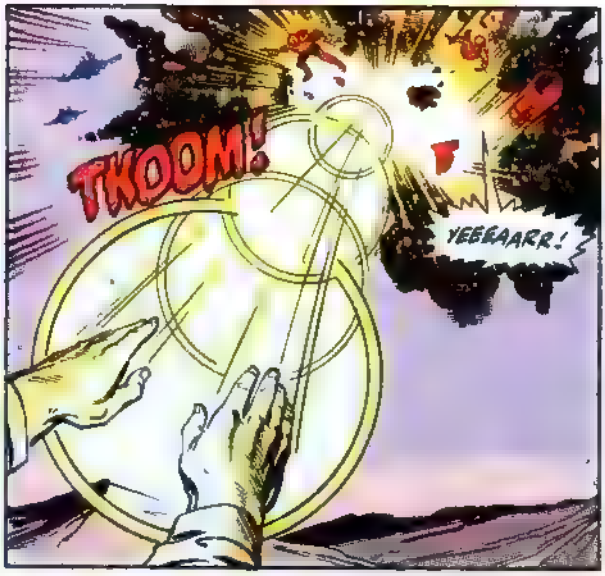

NO! LOOK OUT!
WHAT ARE YOU DO-- ?


SLURRPP
UGH

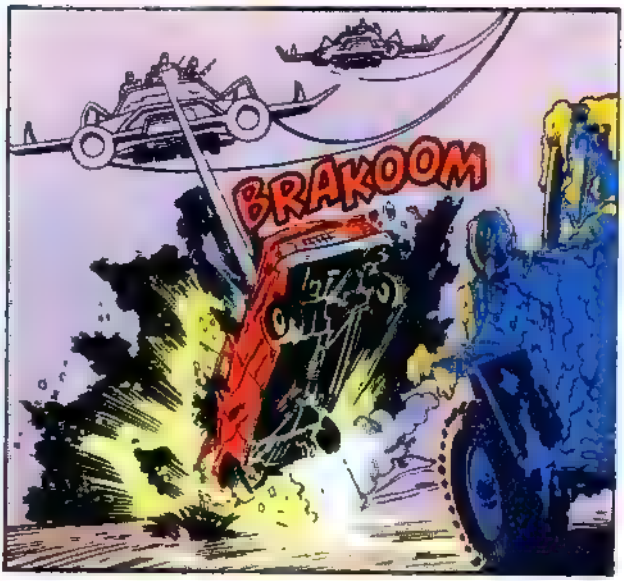
SPLOOSH


THE JEEP--!
HOW DID YOU KNOW?
ER... I DIDN'T. I JUST SAW THEM AND THOUGHT THAT... I DON'T KNOW

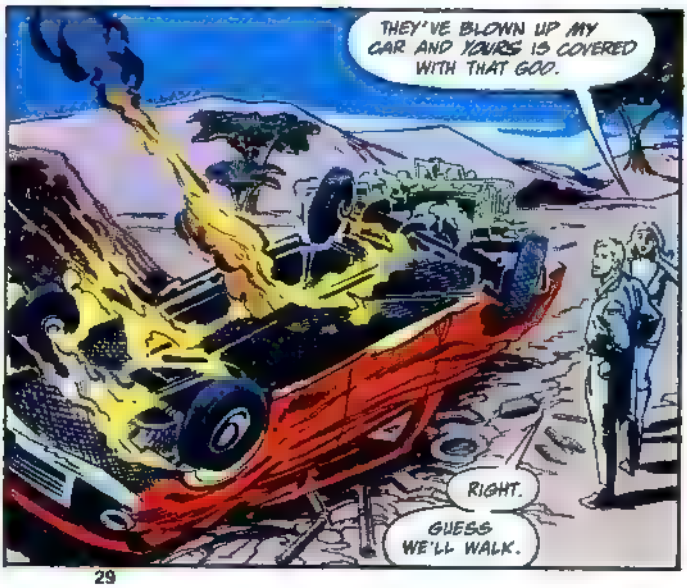

THE LITTLE WITCH BOTCHED UP THE PLAN.
WE'LL MAKE HER PAY, BRENDAN AND IF WE DON'T, THE TRACKER WILL GET--


TKOOM!
YEEAARR!

THAT WAS CLOSE. BETTER GET THE GIRL TO COVER BEFORE--


BRAKOOM

THEY'RE LEAVING. WE SHOULD HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO GET BACK TO TOWN BEFORE THEY CAN REGROUP
I DON'T KNOW IF GETTING TO TOWN IS GOING TO BE SO SIMPLE.


THEY'VE BLOWN UP MY CAR AND YOURS IS COVERED WITH THAT GOO.
RIGHT.
GUESS WE'LL WALK.

"GUESS WE'LL WALK" YOU SAY
HOW CAN YOU BE SO CALM? WHO ARE YOU? AND HOW DID YOU DO WHAT YOU DID?
MY NAME'S ALEX SUMMERS, AND WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY
IT'S GETTING DARK AND I'D RATHER US NOT BE HERE IF OUR FRIENDS DECIDE TO GIVE US ANOTHER GO-ROUND
WE HAVE A LONG TRIP TO THE NEAREST TOWN, SO LET'S GET GOING.
AS FOR WHAT I DID--
--IT WAS NO BIG DEAL. MS....?
...LEILA, LEILA O'TOOLE.
OKAY, LEILA, WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE DOING IN THE AUSTRALIAN OUTBACK ALONE.
FIRST OF ALL, ALEX, I FIND THAT QUESTION TO BE TOTALLY SEXIST--
--SECONDLY, YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY TRYING TO AVOID TALKING ABOUT YOURSELF AND WHAT YOU DID BACK THERE
WHATEVER IT WAS... IT MADE ME FEEL STRANGE. KIND OF TINGLY INSIDE I'D LIKE TO KNOW HOW YOU DID IT
NOT RIGHT NOW I'M NOT MUCH OF A TALKER
WELL. I AM.
AND QUITE FRANKLY I NEED TO TALK TO SOMEONE -- I'VE BEEN ON THE RUN FOR SO LONG..
"THIS TIME LAST YEAR, I WAS IN EGYPT DOING SOME FIELD WORK ARCHEOLOGY.
"AN ACQUAINTANCE INTRODUCED ME TO A RELIGIOUS CULT WHICH STILL WORSHIPS THE PHARAOHS OF ANCIENT TIMES.
"I WAS INDOCTRINATED INTO THE CULT. I FOUND IT TO BE QUITE AN EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE, UNTIL
"ONCE A YEAR, I LEARNED, THE CULT HAS A SPECIAL CEREMONY. ONE IN WHICH A SACRIFICE IS OFFERED TO THEIR GOD... IN ORDER TO ENSURE HIS RETURN
"IT WAS A HUMAN SACRIFICE

"I COULDN'T STAND BY AND BE A PART OF IT.
"I SCREAMED.
"I RAN."
I'VE BEEN RUNNING EVER SINCE.
THE CULT DOESN'T ALLOW ANYONE TO LEAVE.
THEY'VE BEEN TRACKING ME AROUND THE WORLD. THOSE MEN WERE PART OF THE MERCENARY FORCES THEY EMPLOY.
THEY WERE AFTER YOU?
OF COURSE. WHAT DID YOU THINK?
NEVER MIND. IT'S NOTHING--
SKTCH
QUIET! I THINK I HEAR SOMETHING IN THE BRUSH!
IT'S PROBABLY JUST A KANGAROO.
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.
LET'S MOVE A LITTLE FASTER AND BE CAREFUL WITH THIS DARKNESS--
UMPH!
AIEEE!

WELL, MATES, LOOKS LIKE WE CAUGHT US A COUPLE OF STRAY WALLABIES.
WHAT SAY, DO WE SHOOT 'EM FIRST OR SKIN 'EM ALIVE?
HEH, HEAH, HEH!
TO BE CONTINUED...

MARVEL® READERS PRESENT

Attention correspondents: if you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Dear Marvel,

After reading MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #16, I felt compelled to write and tell you what I thought. At the beginning, I didn't really think the series would be good. I figured that the quality would diminish quite rapidly (like another company's similar title), but I'm happy to say that it didn't happen here. After eight months, I'm still buying your book, and I will for the foreseeable future. Now on to specifics. . .

"God's Country" is drawing to a fast and furious conclusion, and I'm sorry to see it go. Ann Nocenti's writing, though confusing at times, is quite enjoyable. Her characterization of Peter Rasputin and of the other characters' problems are thought-provoking and very believable. The art by the team of Leonardi, Russell, and Milgrom is very good too. The action sequences are great. Those guys can really draw a fight! I hope your upcoming Cyclops story will be as good as this.

"Panther's Quest" is a great story too. Don McGregor's T'Challa is incomparable. Being that there are another 21 issues to go, I guess it'll be a long time before he finds his mother. I'll definitely be there to see it though, especially if Don, Gene, and Tom keep up their great work.

Compared to the serious tone of her Colossus story, Ann Nocenti's work on "Dreamwalk" is quite a difference. I've wanted to see a Longshot story since the limited series ended a long time ago, so I was glad to see him back on his own. Ann and Chris Claremont are the only people who should ever write Longshot. They both do a great job with a quite unusual character. Even though Art Adams's artwork would have been great in this story, Dixon and Alcala did a commendable job. Let's see some more Longshot stuff in the near future, okay?

Last and (I'm sorry to say) least, "This is a Savage Land" was a fair story. Dwight writes a good Ka-Zar, but I wasn't too thrilled with the story. I guess that may be because of Jim Mooney's art. I usually like his work, but this looked uninspired to me, and it detracted from the story. I would like to see more Ka-Zar stuff, though, so you have another chance.

Well, in closing, I'm quite happy with the way MCP is going. It is easily my favorite book, and I'm eagerly looking forward to issue #17 and the start of the Cyclops story. Take care.

Victor Dupree
Fresno, CA

We hope you've enjoyed the Cyclops saga, Victor. Write again and tell us what you thought of that!

Dear People,

I felt compelled to write because of the ongoing, excellent Black Panther story. Ironically, I often find his features to be a bore, but this time I think he's being molded by the right hands. This story really works despite the slightly corny motivation of finding a long-lost mother (a woman barely alluded to before, now the cause of risking life and limb!?!).

Don McGregor's scripting is beautiful. Unlike the liberal tirades, Ann Nocenti subjected us to in the Colossus story, McGregor skillfully lets a situation speak for itself. We are allowed to experience, instead of forcibly being given explanations of what is right or wrong. The power of a story lies in what it makes a reader feel, as opposed to preaching. The constant switching of narrative perspectives is an excellent way of conveying that, for the most part, there are no stereotypically good or evil players. There are only people who live out their days guided by beliefs and values that seem twisted by you or me, but oh so natural to them. The soldier, Percy Boraine, simply performs his duties whilst daydreaming of his true goal in life: to spend every minute with his girlfriend. Even the Magistrate of Communications is not an evil personality per se. His highbrow and prejudiced perceptions cause him to interpret the world as such. He is not someone like the Red Skull. This is a story fleshed out with frightfully real characters.

With art, I must confess that I've never been much of a Gene Colan fan, but his style fits the story perfectly. The fluid grace of the Panther, and the grungy demeanor of Patrick Slade are nicely conveyed by Gene's pencils. Tom's inks and Glynis's colors complete the dark and dusty atmosphere of the scenes. This feels like the down-to-earth piece it was meant to be. A tip of the hat to all involved.

Elsewhere in this book, might I also mention that the Cyclops feature is also very good. Who better suited to write an X-Men related action/adventure than all-around mutant editor (and recent NICK FURY vs. SHIELD scripter) Bob Harras? Good stuff, indeed. Visually, Ron Lim's excellent art is a slick and smooth as ever. Whenever he puts a pencil to paper, it's a feast for the eyes. Master Mold cuts an imposing figure in every panel he occupies. Coupled with the personality of the malicious and almost forgotten Stephen Lang, he's an intriguing power to be reckoned with.

All in all, I'm thoroughly enjoying this series. I hope you keep up the great work for a long time.

Are you planning on featuring Galactus any time soon?

How about Jamie Madrox, the marvelous Multiple Man? I loved him in the FALLEN ANGELS limited series and I've eagerly awaited his return.

James W. Verden, Jr.
Schiller Park, IL

We'll try to accommodate you, James, but that's a big order. We'd better get our resident writer extraordinaire, Scott Lobdell, to get cracking on those stories. By the way, you may have noticed that on the bottom of this page we've printed a ballot for the CBG Awards. Well, we folks here at MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS are proud to nominate the aforementioned Mr. Lobdell in the category of best writer. His accomplishments in this book speak for themselves! Oh, and don't forget about some of the other people who've worked in these pages like Chris Claremont, Ann Nocenti, Don McGregor, Bob Harras, or any of the other writers who've graced these pages. They're all worthy. Think about it . . . and VOTE!

Comics Buyer's Guide Fan Awards for 1988

Welcome to the ***CBG*** Fan Awards. ***Comics Buyer's Guide***, a weekly newspaper devoted to the world of comic books, sponsors these awards to let **you**, the readers, decide which comic books deserve to be called "the best." Just fill out the ballot and send it to the address below.

1. **Favorite Editor** _____
2. **Favorite Writer** _____
3. **Favorite Penciler** _____
4. **Favorite Inker** _____
5. **Favorite Colorist** _____
6. **Favorite Letterer** _____
7. **Favorite Cover Artist** _____
8. **Favorite Comic Book Story** _____
9. **Favorite Comic Book** _____
10. **Favorite Limited Comic Book Series** _____
11. **Favorite Original Graphic Novel or Album** _____
12. **Favorite Reprint Graphic Novel or Album** _____
13. **Favorite Character** _____
14. **Favorite Publication about Comics** _____

Only material with a 1988 cover date can win. DC's 1988 issues dated "Holiday" or "Winter" are eligible. Votes for projects that did not have a 1988 publication date will not be counted. Copy this ballot and give it to your friends, so they can vote, too. **Anyone who loves comics can vote**—but only vote once. If you vote more than once, all of your votes will be thrown away. Vote only in the categories you want, and ignore any you don't. ***Comics Buyer's Guide*** is not eligible for Category 14.

Every voter in the United States will get a **free copy** of ***Comics Buyer's Guide*** #817, dated July 14, 1989, unless you already have current or expired subscription to **CBG**. That issue will carry the list of winners! Votes from other countries will be counted, but we regret that free copies of ***CBG*** can't be sent, unless your vote is accompanied by $1.50 in U.S. funds, to cover handling and shipping. Mail your ballot individually in an envelope by June 10, 1989, to: ***Comics Buyer's Guide*** **Fan Awards, 700 E. State St., Iola, Wis. 54990**

Name _____

Address _____ **State** _____ **Zip Code** _____

Please type or print clearly. You need not cut out this page in order to vote! Copies are acceptable and will be counted.

Shamrock
VS. ARNIM ZOLA!
BLACK PANTHER
BETWEEN A MAN AND HIS FAMILY!